



Councillor DANIEL CRAWFORD  
15th (North Kelvin) Ward

# City of Glasgow

City Chambers, Glasgow G2 1DU  
Central Switchboard 041-221 9600

Date.....9th August, 1990.....

Home Address 10 Kelvinside Drive, North Kelvin, Glasgow G20 6QD

## The Proposals for Fleshers Haugh - The Facts

Some members have had raised with them the issue of the redevelopment of Glasgow Green and proposals for development on Fleshers Haugh. It has been suggested to me that members who are not on Parks & Recreation Committee may not be fully aware of the discussions which have taken place to date. In addition some comments in the press on this matter have been misleading or inaccurate. I therefore write to provide you with some of the facts relating to this issue.

The context in which discussion within the Parks & Recreation Committee took place originally were :

1. A Manifesto commitment. The appropriate extract from the Manifesto reads as follows -  
  
....."our overall planning policy will be to improve the range and quality of community and recreational facilities available in each local area".  
  
"we will develop more varied recreational uses for Glasgow Green, on condition that any development respects the historic associations of the Green, and has the consent of the local people".
2. The knowledge that there has been a general reduction in the usage of Council football pitches has been particularly high in the case of the football pitches at Fleshers Haugh. The main reason for this is the demographic factors - there are simply many fewer teenage boys within Glasgow. It has to be said, however, also that the Fleshers Haugh site is in poor condition, being badly rutted.
3. The trees in Glasgow Green are badly blighted by Ash Canker and Dutch Elm Disease.
4. Strathclyde Regional roads proposals at that time made it imperative for the Council to produce a strategy which would ensure the viability of Glasgow Green as an important park. There was a danger that the roads plans would destroy the integrity of the Green.

### Some Facts

A number of misunderstandings have been repeatedly echoed in recent press reports and ought to be corrected:

1. The site in question is not what the vast majority of people recognise as the Green but in fact is the run down football pitches.
2. The proposals do not mean a loss of parkland. Indeed under the proposals it is quite feasible that not only will all the existing parkland be retained as parkland but that additional landscaping will be introduced.
3. There is no proposal to sell off the Green. What is being discussed is a possible lease arrangement involving the land which is currently semi derelict football pitches.
4. Contrary to some suggestions, the proposals would not only be accessible to the well off. I enclose for your information a report produced by officers which went to the Parks & Recreation Committee on 18th June, 1990, which makes mention of charges. All the developers have made clear that they see it as essential to attract as many local people as possible to the development in order that it be viable.
5. It has been suggested that there has been a lack of consultation with regard to this matter. The fact that the Council agreed to an exhibition being placed in local libraries, unemployed workers centre and community centre and also agreed to carry out a proper survey of public opinion shows this to be untrue. The Council is committed to fully taking into account public opinion on this matter. It is therefore important that people are aware of the facts.

### The Future

Clearly the Council's commitment to Glasgow Green will continue whatever decision is made with regard to the question of the possible development of Fleshers Haugh. It has to be said, however, that there is a great deal of expenditure required to upgrade and improve further Glasgow Green and Richmond Park. There are plans for Phase 2 of the redevelopment which would incorporate the creation of events space at Kings Drive and improvements to the South bank of the river, the erection of lighting within the park and the provision of an excellent and safe children's adventure playground. This requires obviously capital investment and as you know the Council's General Services Capital is fully stretched.

Should the development go ahead on the run down football pitches a notional capital receipt will be available to the Council to invest in the redevelopment of Richmond Park and Glasgow Green.

It is not feasible for the Council to build on Fleshers Haugh as any development there would be extremely costly. It would be necessary to pile 100m before hitting rock and the site is also contaminated. The SDA's involvement will be essential if a development is to go ahead at all and it does seem more socially worthwhile that they spend money reclaiming Fleshers Haugh for development that would be accessible to both sexes and all age groups rather than the site to remain in its present condition.

Further information is available in the attached paper.

Councillor D. Crawford  
Convener  
Parks & Recreation Committee

# SAVE GLASGOW GREEN



## PROTEST!

Come to the Lobby

**City Chambers**

**Friday 10th August**

**1.30pm**

Tell your friends and neighbours

Bring a banner or placard



This is what Ed could  
remember of his meeting  
with D. Crawford, and  
the stuff Crawford sent  
him afterwards "to allay  
our fears"

(1)

25th August 1990

E.G. went in to speak to Danny Crawford at Maryhill Central Halls

Ed said that he was distressed at the proposal to remove part of Glasgow Green by giving it to developers

D.C.: Can I fill in the background?

Dutch Elm disease and canker on many trees, a lack of car-parking facilities, no amphitheatre - all these problems confronted the Council concerning the existing parkland on the Green.

There's a campaign going around to say we're trying to close the Peoples Palace - we wouldn't have spent £2 ½ million on it recently if we wanted to close it.

The Parks Dept. only had a budget of around £3 million for all of Glasgows parks, including Glasgow Green.

(D. Crawford used to go running round the Green years ago and had noticed how derelict a condition it was in)

The McLennan triumphal arch would have to be moved anyway as it was listing to one side. It wasn't in a good position, as the inscription on it could only be read from Charlotte Street School.



(2)

D.C: The people at the People's Palace were consulted and were very happy about the proposals to improve the car parking and walkways and car access to the Palace.

E.G: When were these proposals put to them?

D.C: About 1989.

E.G: You mean you actually asked the curator of the People's Palace?

D.C: Well, I don't know, but - - - - -  
(then something to the effect that the people at the P.P. didn't object or hadn't complained))

D.C: The Rowing clubs approved the idea of a landscaped area which would slope down to the river and allow people to watch the races.

D.C: It was part of Glasgow Labour Council Policy to invest in Glasgow Green.

D.C: ∴ The Green needed investment  
Not a blade of grass will be removed.

D.C: Only a few letters on the subject

D.C: What I'm proposing is lighting for the parkland part of the Green

D.C: The District Council opposed the motorway plans  
- we stopped the motorway.

D.C: There will be no housing on the Glasgow Green.

(3)

D.C: The council has been misrepresented over the proposals for GLASGOW GREEN: it will not be sold off: the council will lease the land.

Fleisher's Haugh has not been part of Glasgow Green for 800 years, it was only bought/taken over in 1790s.

The subsoil is contaminated so even planting grass might be difficult (when Ed suggested that there has been much work done in pit bing reclamation with hardy species of birch etc. and that it need not necessarily be a problem he said nothing)

That area (the Haugh) was hardly used at all he said and was the most run down and neglected area of the Green. The local residents complained of dust blowing off the blaes pitches.

The development would provide about 400 jobs.

E.g: Would there be any chance of the public seeing the proposals for development. — to put some input to the plans?

D.C: We don't believe in holding plebiscites.

The group, which was going about attacking these proposals seemed to be concerned with attacking the Labour Party.

There's no secrecy about any of the proposals.



(4)

D.C.: If people genuinely are opposed to the developments, we won't rush ahead. We are consulting the people (transpired that 'the people' meant a few local residents near to the Haugh)

D.C.: I was at a meeting recently, 4 people spoke to me. One lady called me a liar. One man said "don't move the McLennan Arch." This showed that he did not know that the Arch had already been moved from INGRAM Street.

There's enough parkland and open space at the Green, Richmond Park, Greendyke St. (walkway).  
The Haugh is unnecessary.

D.C.: Admission charges will be kept down to £3 per day.

D.C.: Stoke on Trent is a poor area but the water complex was very busy - Glasgow's one will be much better.

We'll insist on landscaping and only a certain small shopping development (a small sports shop not much bigger than this office)

The local people want a supermarket, but they're not going to get one.

[Councillor Crawford appeared to be saying that the "Water Theme" was his idea, had been proposed about 2 years ago and that no one else had come up with any alternative schemes]

(5)

He was annoyed at the suggestion that he was against the People's Palace - there never had been plans on the part of his dept. to interfere with the People's Palace, in fact they were upgrading the access to it.

- D.C.: The income from development would subsidise a new improved amenity of parkland bit round the Palace.  
Lighting so's people could walk safely at night.  
Illuminated flower-beds with underground electric cables.  
Proper plaques to mark all the historic sites.
- D.C.: Gillespies of Park Circus and several other firms have done studies for us of development proposals for the Green.  
We scrapped some of them of course  
(indicated that some hadn't been very good)
- D.C.: Only the local residents think of Fleshiars Haugh as part of Glasgow Green
- E.G.: My mother-in-law lived in Dennistown for 30 years and she has always regarded the Haugh as part of the Green: as a child my wife always used to go down to the Green
- D.C.: Yes I suppose the football clubs always used to call them the Glasgow Green football pitches.  
Football though is mainly for teenage boys.  
For demographic reasons, the number of teenage

(6)

boys in the area is decreasing and is unlikely to rise.

D.C.: There are adequate facilities at Crownpoint Rd. (pitches and indoor games halls)

So really it's only a small area, that of the old blaes pitches that's going to be leased - there is other parkland at Grandyke St.

D.C.: The S.D.A. will be investing.

E.G.: When a government agency like the S.D.A. gives money, they demand a say in how it's used and so the council loses control of what's happening in the situation.

D.C.: Although some people complain, I see no objections to the S.D.A. using public money to provide the foundations for the private developers.  
It's not as bad as in Clydebank where they cleared a site for the private hospital to care for the rich.

D.C.: We're sending a travelling exhibition round the Unemployed Workers Centre and the local community centres and libraries

E.G.: Just the developers proposals, though?

D.C.: Nobody else has come up with any suggestions.

E.G: You could have sent a competition round the schools to ask the pupils for their ideas on how to improve Flasher's Haugh by landscaping — to encourage future generations to take an interest in the area.

D.C: If you ask 10,000 people you'll get 10,000 different proposals.

D.C: We're sending a questionnaire round the tenants who live on the perimeter of the Green

E.G: Is there a question on the form, giving people the alternative of not development on the Green?

D.C: - - - - em - - - yes! We ask them what they'd like to see done with the Green.

D.C: Problems of the Green :- Hogweed on the banks of the river  
Haugh - marshy site. The weavers used to carry rubble (or ash?) to fill in these marshes

# PAISLEY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

## DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED SOCIAL STUDIES

Head of Department: Professor John Foster  
Associate Head of Department: James Adams



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JF/IM/4931A

28.8.90

Ms. Elaine Smith,  
Save Glasgow Green Campaign,  
House 4/2,  
162 Helenvale Street,  
GLASGOW.

Dear Ms. Smith,

### Questionnaire Concerning Fleshers Haugh Project and Glasgow Green

I have examined the questionnaire together with the development proposals. My conclusions is that the questionnaire could give rise to unrepresentative and biased responses.

There are three areas of concern:

#### 1. Presumed knowledge and support for the project

The placing of question 10 has a strong tendency to bias the whole questionnaire. Respondents are asked to reply to the question about whether they think the development a good idea before the issue of payment is raised in Questions 12 and 13. This presumes a high level of prior knowledge about the project - which is not justifiable. Even more surprisingly, in view of this, the 'lead' information given before question 10 does not mention either the commercial character of the development or the fact that payment would be required for use. It simply mentions the facilities which would be available and the employment which would be created. This, and the mention of 400 jobs, makes it very likely that responses to question 10 would be biased in favour of the project.

#### 2. Opportunity cost of the development

Respondents are not directly asked whether they agree or disagree with the loss of the football pitches and the free open space amenity existing at present. Nor are they asked to express an opinion for or against the redevelopment of the site on a commercial or non-commercial, public sector basis. Nor, finally, is information provided by which they could make such an evaluation as there is no firm information on precisely what the level of charges is likely to be (a crucial issue in light of the Glasgow's Glasgow experience).




3 Age range of sample

Respondents are to be of 18 years or over. This will also tend to bias the sample. Most of those who currently use the site are likely to be under 18. This is also the constituency that is least likely to have the resources to use the ~~constituency~~ centre. It is therefore difficult to understand why 18 has been specified. 16 is the lower age limit for membership of Community Councils and would at least include some of the age group whose current interests would be most affected.

A final comment. We are given no information on the size of sample, in what areas it is to be carried out, or how the households are to be selected. This could also introduce very significant biases. In view of this I think it would also be important that any analysis of such a survey was provided by income and also ward by ward to make it possible to assess the response of high and low income localities. There is a very great and to some extent increasing disparity of economic and social opportunity in Glasgow (most dramatically revealed in the Director of Public Health's Report earlier this month). Those living in the inner city without economic resources would not be able to go elsewhere to find open space and play amenities. Those with such resources and private transport could readily do so.

Yours sincerely,



PROFESSOR JOHN FOSTER  
Head of Department



**SAVE GLASGOW  
GREEN**



**PROTEST**  
CITY CHAMBERS

**Thursday 30th August**

**12.30pm**

*bring placards and  
banners*

# GLASGOW GREEN FACT SHEET

1. People's Palace (Glasgow's History Museum) opened 1898. Winter Gardens closed for Repairs since September 1980.
2. Martin Fountain 1893 - made by the Saracen Foundry Co., Possilpark.
3. Monteith Row, Built 1818-20. Architect David Hamilton. Re-named Weavers Court, October 1981 - new houses by Barratt.
4. Templeton's Carpet Factory. Built 1889. Architect William Leiper.
5. Charlotte Street, opened 1780s. David Dale lived here.
6. Greendyke Street, opened 1814 - 1818.
7. Castle Boins, where the washerwomen stacked their "boins" or wash tubs.
8. St. Andrews-by-the-Green. Oldest Episcopal church building in Scotland. 1750.
9. St. Andrews Parish Church, built 1739-1756. Similar to St. Martins-in-the-Fields, London.
10. City Orphan Home, built by William Quarrier in 1876.
11. Tent Hall - started as an evangelical tent on the Green, 1874. Now the YMCA.
12. Saltmarket - rebuilt in 1880s-90s by the City Improvement Trust.
13. High Court - built 1810, rebuilt 1910.
14. Jail or Jocelyn Square.
15. Collins Fountain - commemorates temperance work of Sir William Collins.
16. Paddy's Market (old clothes), Shipbank Lane. Open Monday-Saturday.
17. Doulton Fountain, built for 1888 International Exhibition. Erected Glasgow Green 1890.
18. Nelson's Monument, built by subscription, 1806.
19. James Watt monument - commemorates the discover of the separate condenser.
20. Fountain commemorating Hugh Macdonald (1817-1860) author of "Rambles around Glasgow".
21. Humane Society House (private).
22. Site of Arns Well.
23. St. Andrews Suspension Bridge, built 1853.
24. Fleshers' Haugh - Rangers (1873) and Celtic (1888) Football Clubs founded here.
25. Site of Allan's Pen - first attempted encroachment on the Green.
26. The Daisy Green/McPhun's Park.
27. Buchanan Institution, founded 1859, to educate destitute boys.
28. Logan & Johnstone School of Domestic Economy - now the Dolphin Centre
29. The Barrows - started in the 1880s. Open Saturdays and Sundays.
30. The Merchants' Steeple, built 1659 as part of the Merchants House to serve as a look out tower for ships coming up the Clyde.



Washing on Glasgow Green c1910.



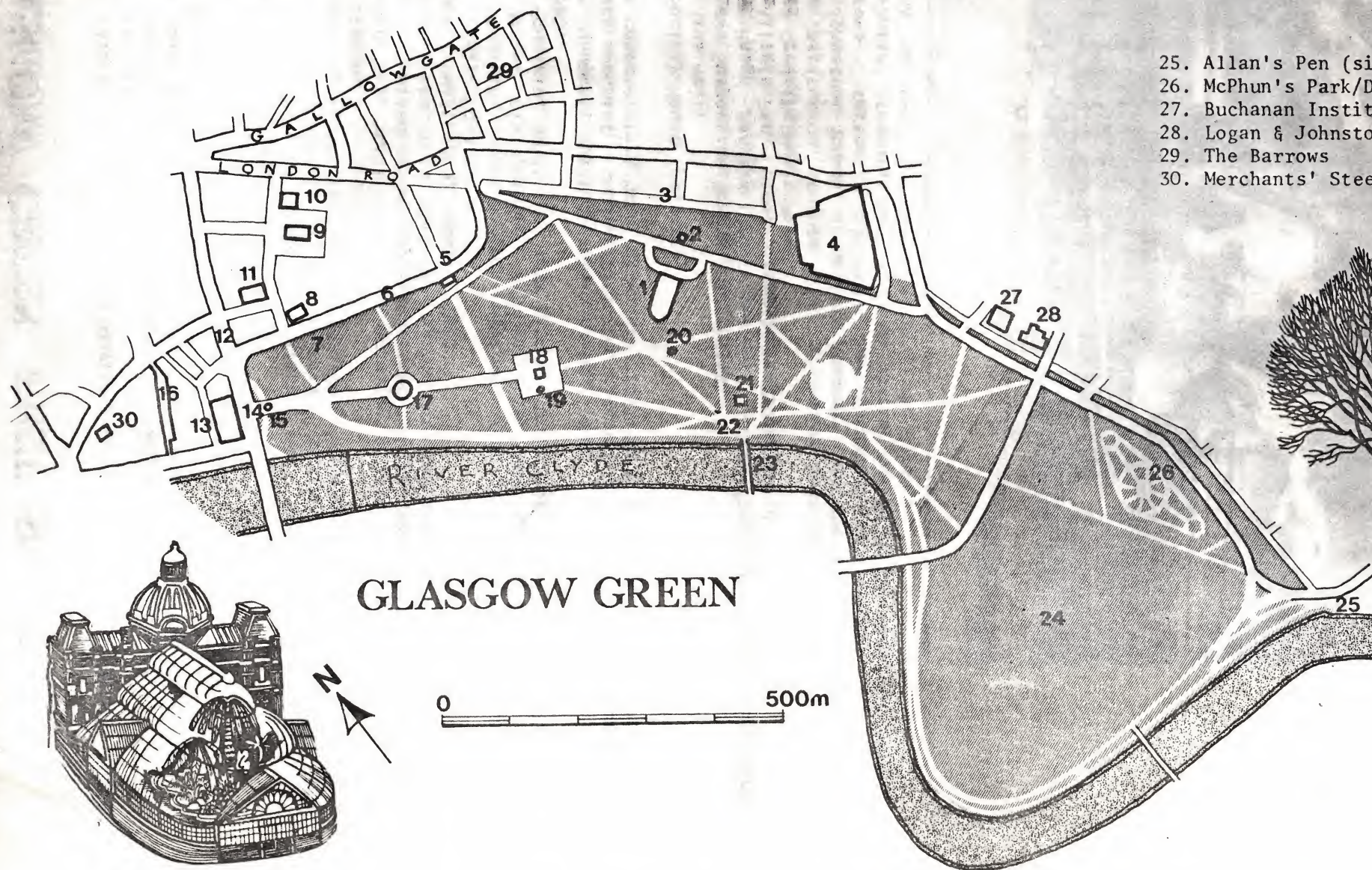
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27. Buchanan Institution
28. Logan & Johnston
29. The Barrows
30. Merchants' Steeple





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Washerwomen on Glasgow Green, c.1910



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31 Keir St.

G41 2NW

31<sup>st</sup> October.

Tim,

I enclose a copy  
of the Council memorandum  
and the comments on  
the questionnaire as you  
requested.

Best wishes

Chris



## FLESHERS HAUGH DEVELOPMENT

Report by Town Clerk

### Introduction

On 27 September 1988 the committee approved, in principle, the main elements of a strategy for the redevelopment of Glasgow Green, which had been drawn up in consultation with the Scottish Development Agency.

Considerable progress has been made on the first element of the strategy which involves early action works for the traditional parkland area of the Green. Work is under way in this area of the park on a £2 million scheme to provide a river walkway, create a new civic space at the western entrance to the Green and upgrade the landscaping and improve traffic management around the People's Palace. These improvements represent the first steps towards a major refurbishment of the traditional parkland area including comprehensive tree replacement and a reorganisation of the pathway system.

The second element of the strategy envisaged the development of a major tourism/leisure development at Flishers Haugh, which is currently occupied largely by rundown football pitches. Officials were instructed to develop these proposals further and investigate sources of funding in consultation with the Scottish Development Agency, the private sector and other agencies. A development brief for the site was drawn up with a view to inviting proposals for the site from private developers. Five developers submitted initial proposals and the Council then invited three of these developers, Rank Leisure, Citygrove Leisure and Sports and Leisure Developments to work up their schemes for detailed consideration. These detailed proposals have now been submitted and members of the committee were invited to a presentation of the proposals on 4 June 1990.

The submissions have been considered by the South Area Management Committee and the East End Area Management Committee. In the light of the views expressed by the Area Management Committees, the Parks and Recreation Committee is invited to submit its comments on the three schemes to the Policy and Resources Committee's Working Group on Policy Matters, which will hear further detailed submissions from the developers on 25 June 1990.

### Project Content

The specific activities included in each proposal are set out in the papers circulated prior to the meeting. Sports and Leisure Developments have since reduced the scale of their scheme, omitting most of the retail element, reducing the size of the site and omitting the roller skating rink.

The/...

The three proposals are similar in content, as would be expected as they were the product of a single development brief. The common element in each proposal are a water world, ten pin bowling, multi-plex cinema, nightclub/disco, retail bars, restaurants and a hotel. The uniqueness of the project is fundamentally in the scale and size of the facility rather than in the individual elements themselves. A few similar facilities exist in Britain at the Dome at Doncaster, Tower Park at Bournemouth, the Point at Milton Keynes and Festival Park at Stoke. Only Aquaboulevard in Paris and Kinnepolis in Brussels are comparable in Europe. Any one of the three proposals would be a flagship development in Scotland. The total value of the developments range from £30 million to £40 million.

#### Design

The Director of Architecture has assessed the design merits of each of the schemes and will advise the committee of his views.

#### Development and management style

Rank Leisure would fund, develop and manage the facilities at Fleshers Haugh. Citygrove Leisure would sub-let each element of the scheme to an operating company, and would themselves manage the common areas inside and outside the building. The Sports and Leisure Developments proposal is a mixture of the two wherein the developers would manage the water park and the common areas themselves, and seek to sub-let the other facilities.

#### Charges

In all cases, the developers propose that admission to the car parking areas, the parkland areas and the central mall of the buildings will be free of charge, with users then paying for entry to individual facilities. Charges will generally relate to the operator's assessment of a commercially viable level in relation to comparable facilities in the Glasgow area. Only Rank Leisure, as eventual operators, have been able to propose charges for all elements of the scheme, with a peak time adult charge of £2.95 for the water world, £1.90 for ten pin bowls and a maximum of £3.50 for the cinemas.

#### Assessment

The three proposals have been assessed in relation to the standard of the project concept, the track record of the companies and the commercial viability of the product mix.

(a) Project Content/...

- 4 -

Citygrove Leisure will depend on operators purchasing the completed elements of the scheme at prices which will cover the development costs and subsidise extensive landscaping, the common areas and the commercially unprofitable parts of the scheme, such as the waterworld. Operators have indicated interest in the development but, ultimately, operator interest will depend on market projections for the individual facilities.

Similar conditions will exist for Sports and Leisure Developments who will, however, build and operate the waterpark themselves.

#### Summary

In summary, any of the three developments could provide a facility unique in Scotland in terms of the scale and mix of facility and comparable to any complex in the UK. The developments would provide for a local and City-wide market, would attract day visitors from much of Central Scotland and add to Glasgow's attraction for the tourist market.

DF/AM/CPOGEN/40  
18 June 1990

CITY OF GLASGOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

Town Clerk's Office, City Chambers, Glasgow, G2 7DU

Report to: SOUTH AREA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
by: SOUTH AREA CO-ORDINATOR

Reference: DJH/GENAMS 1294  
Date: 29 June 1990

COMMENTS ON GLASGOW GREEN RE-DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The following comments are a composite of the views expressed by local officers of the Planning Department and Department of Architecture, at a meeting on Thursday 28 June 1990; in addition, the local representative of the Parks and Recreation Department met with me on Friday 29 June 1990 when additional comments were incorporated.

As the detailed content of each of the three proposals is very similar in terms of hotel, restaurant, bars, retail, various commercial leisure activities and associated car parking - reflecting their origin in the same brief - the concern has been to comment more on the principles of the schemes rather than on the specific detail. This approach also seems more sensible as the proposals are still at a relatively fluid stage of development and as a number of factors such as ground conditions, financing, etc., are still uncertain and could affect the final proposed outcomes.

Potential of Glasgow Green.

Glasgow Green has the following attributes which offer potential and which should be sensitively recognised in any proposals for redevelopment:

- It traditionally acted as a 'green lung' for the industrial city; it is now likely to emerge in a similar capacity as the 'green lung' for a revitalised and increasingly residential merchant city area. In addition, of course, it serves as the local park for residents along the northern edge in Calton and Bridgeton, and has the potential to be the local park for the Gorbals area if the psychological boundary of the River Clyde could be crossed.

Glasgow Green is spacious, and indeed offers enough space to have the chance to mix quieter leisure activities/passive tranquil leisure with more active leisure pursuits.

- There/

• There is a need to include the River Clyde within Glasgow Green rather than to have the River as a southern boundary; thus water based activities on the River should happen within the Green. To achieve this and breakdown psychological barriers, Glasgow Green needs in some way to be brought south of the River especially in the Gorbals area and in Oatlands at Richmond Park. This could be achieved by, for example, improving pedestrian bridge access at McNeil Street and Richmond Park with boulevard layout, attractive lighting, landscaping at McNeil Street, etc.

- Glasgow Green has a long tradition as a parkland, but that should not lead to preservation of what is, after all, a nineteenth century park layout. But in terms of conservation, new buildings and structures should recognise this tradition and be sympathetic to it in terms of design, construction, materials used, finish, layout, etc.
- Glasgow Green at present is very flat, and there should be the opportunity to introduce some relief in mounding, etc., (even small scale mounding could achieve significant landscape improvement and variety).
- Glasgow Green could cope with a variety of new elements - for example a hotel, a restaurant, etc - either dispersed within the park or on immediate periphery of Glasgow Green. Whether it can cope with all commercial elements in a single concentrated location without significantly changing the character of the park is more questionable.

#### Relationship to other development issues.

- Given the limited available recreational space in the Gorbals/Oatlands section of south area, the advisability of permitting a sizeable section of Richmond Park to be developed as a commercially based Garden Centre must be questioned. Other semi-derelict sites immediately peripheral to Glasgow Green could be equally useful for Garden Centre development and would not detrimentally affect parkland (eg Shawfield Drive/Newhall Street at Rutherglen Bridge).

Potentially the existing Gorbals Park (further west along Caledonia Road) may be incorporated in the Hutchesontown 'E' Crown Street Regeneration proposals and relocation of this football facility to Richmond Park is desirable; similarly James Elliott Centre/Gorbals United Football Team have suggested relocation from Wolseley Street to Richmond Park when their present site needs to be vacated. (Zoned for housing development in the Local Plan).

- Glasgow Rowing Club have submitted a detailed planning application to relocate their boathouse and landing stage from the north bank of the Clyde to the south bank at the west end of Hutchesontown Bowling Club near Waterside Street. Their proposal should be encouraged in longer strategic terms as it would improve local landscaping and assist in integrating the south bank as part of Glasgow Green.
- Richmond Park, like the rest of Glasgow Green, certainly needs some improvement, but preferred activities would be organised outdoor sport/leisure and casual leisure.



- All the proposals appear to pay little more than lip service to recognition of the potential of the River as a leisure element in its own right.

The three redevelopment proposals.

(i) SPORTS AND LEISURE DEVELOPMENT

- Poor quality of buildings in terms of design and materials/finishes.
- Poor layout proposals.
- Certain incompatible/conflicting uses - for example petrol station juxtaposed with leisure uses.
- What proposals/form are intended for the garden centre in Richmond Park?

(ii) GLASGOW LEISURE PALACE (RANK LEISURE)

- This building complex tends to concentrate the commercial leisure activities into effectively an indoor perpetual funfair, but has the advantage of using the least parkland for the building; however it includes a very large unbroken area of car parking, landscaping of which will be difficult to maintain to a high standard.

• The building is in a position which has potential to better relate to the river, and this should be recognised in design and layout.

Unrelated to quieter park uses across Kings Drive.

(iii) CITYGROVE

- In certain respects this is the best layout of the three proposals, making some effort to merge buildings with parkland.

• But the quality of the buildings and the finishes is suspect.

• There may be the need for an extra bridge to link Flesher's Haugh to Richmond Park.

• Overspill parking is suggested south of Rutherglen Road on ground currently zoned in the Local Plan for housing.

• Marginally more emphasis in this proposal on sport than in commercially 'packaged' leisure activities.

CINEMA

HOTEL 90 BEDS

28 LAMU

16M PIM

1-200 CAR PARK

NO MENTION

OF PEOPLE'S

PALACE

3



2

information regarding the ~~10~~ 18 wards surveyed as to where they are, how they were selected and by whom, and what criteria applied; this information remains firmly out of the public domain. Why!

The four simultaneous public meetings held last Sunday were similarly forced by the vote of the city, ~~pro~~ to reject Lally's insistence on accepting Rank's proposal. These meetings which were chaired by Mr. Lally, Mr. Crawford, Mrs. McFadden, and Mr. Monaghan of the town clerk's office, when the meeting at Bath Street ~~was~~ refused to let Basil Brown take the chair because of his obvious political bias. Interestingly enough, he had no representation at any of the four meetings. Though City Hall and Sports and Junior both expressed a willingness to work with the Rank Organisation.

Every one of those public meetings voted unanimously against any proposal to take the G. W. out of public ownership. That the meetings were a meaningless P.R. exercise never meant to be considered as part of a legitimate process is clearly evidenced by Billie Brown's comment after the Bath Street meeting that "Lobby is still set to go ahead". And so it was.

He was "instructed" a "representation" which is more constitutional than the Society's public meetings. He accuses us of having distorted the facts. But what are the facts? We have not been given all of the facts and the people of Glasgow cannot be expected to make such a momentous decision without them.

This so called referendum which bypasses all due democratic process, is yet another attempt by Mr. Lally to impose his will on the people and take us down a load we don't want to go ~~to~~. It is an abuse of his ~~pos~~ position and displays a flagrant disregard for public opinion and contempt for the democratic process. A

This latest edict from the Leader of the Labour-controlled District Council is one more in a growing list of ludicrous absurdities, destined to turn the present regime into a laughing stock, not only to the people of Glasgow but throughout the entire country. He has "~~ordered a referendum~~", a 'referendum' which is nothing more than an opinion poll. With all due respect to the Evening Times and the other outlets where folk can collect a coupon, an opinion poll is scarcely the same thing as a referendum. The idea that the Leader of the Council should want to confuse the two is extraordinary. Surely no one in a position of such political authority could mistake the one for the other?

What it does indicate, however, is his contempt for the political know-how of his colleagues and his general contempt for the due democratic process. One Council member has described the unprecedented move as "an attempt to by-pass opposition from" within the City Chambers. Regional Councillor James MacKechie has given notice "that the correct procedures for polling the public were not being carried out". Mr MacKechie now points out that it is actually illegal to use the Town Clerk's office for any business unauthorised by the appropriate committee. In other words Councillor Lally's latest rash action is in violation of Standing Orders. It is no more constitutional than the recently conducted Council Survey.

Yet his only justification appears to be the need to silence "a highly vocal minority". What sort of political behaviour can this be? It is scarcely surprising that his biggest critics are now to be found not simply in the Campaign to Save Glasgow Green but in the ranks of the local Labour Party itself. Members of this group are acutely aware of the need for honest integrity of purpose during the coming year's

\* where not only does he state the case for the "fors" but has the audacity to do the same for the "againstists"! Could he not have asked us first!

resélection process for Council candidates. Mr Lally and his dwindling band of cohorts (apparently down to one at the last ~~district~~ <sup>party</sup> meeting) is currently providing the oppositional parties with their strongest ally in years. He declares that of the 66 members of the sitting Council 36 are supporters of himself. If this is true we would like to know their names, so too will the rest of the public. On such a serious and controversial issue everyone is entitled to see where their elected representatives stand. Councillor Lally will no doubt back up our request. His original Leadership campaign was fought on a platform of 'more open government'.

It is worth reminding ourselves that the attempted privatisation of a third of Glasgow Green (30 acres of the historic area known as Flesher's Haugh) was not on the manifesto of the Glasgow District Labour Party. They have been opposed to any private development there. That and the general hostility of the public led the Leadership and its supporters to arrange the Council Survey. The other appeals made by Mr Lally to the 'silent majority' has an unfortunate resonance for some people. This appeal was the last refuge of Mr Spiro Agnew (who first coined the term prior to going to jail), not to mention Mr Richard Nixon.

A properly conducted poll, as with any survey, serves to indicate public opinion. It does not offer a mandate to the folk who commission it. Yet Councillor Lally seems set on having us believe that it does. It is not only preposterous it is disgraceful. Polls are open to manipulation in various ways. For example: it would be very simple for members of the Campaign to Save Glasgow Green to round up 30,000 - or a 100,000 - coupons, and sign fictitious names of support in every last one of them. *The P*

Surveys also have their own pitfalls. It is why established professional operators like Gallup and Mori are duty bound to make their raw data available to public scrutiny.

But in spite of repeated requests regarding the 18 wards surveyed <sup>city-wide</sup> for the Council all relevant information is being denied to this Campaign group. Why? Which wards were the 18? How were they selected? By whom were they selected? What criteria were used? And so on. In common with the rest of the electorate we very much look forward to scrutinising the raw data when at last it becomes available. Nor should we have to point out that as a Council Survey it is the Glaswegian public who foot the bill.

We say here and now that the Mr Lally-controlled District Council has put forward a deliberately flawed opinion poll in the guise of a referendum, as deliberately flawed as was the Council Survey before it. Each has been designed to subvert opposition to the proposed privatisation, by blatantly loading the questions and by flouting the due democratic process of the city. The public should treat it with the contempt it deserves.

The four simultaneous public meetings which were held several days ago were a similar sham. They took place only because the Leadership were forced into it. Opposition within the ranks had been growing. It was one more act of desperation. Each meeting was chaired by council officials: Mr Lally, Mr Crawford, Mrs McFadden and Baillie Brown (who was eventually refused the Chair on the grounds of obvious political bias; Mr Monaghan of the Town Clerk's office then took over). At every single meeting the overwhelming majority of the public were against the proposed development. Mr Lally's response was to dismiss the 250 or so people who bothered to attend the meetings that he himself had called as a crowd of "zealots". After one of them Baillie Brown was heard to make the comment that "Lally is still set to go ahead".

It now appears that the decision to privatise is a foregone conclusion. The Leadership has simply been finding a way to pay lip-service to democracy, to have their decision



ratified in public. It is shameful behaviour. And the privatisation of one third of Glasgow Green is to go ahead. Again the question forces itself: why? Why are Mr Lally and his District Council supporters so hellbent on forcing through such a major proposal when the people of the city so obviously want the matter aired in a genuine fashion? Is it all because of the £30 millions they are said to be able to borrow on the strength of the proposed dispersal? A desperate attempt to recoup some of the massive outlay on the "Year of Culture? Is that what it is? Or is there something more?

No member of the Campaign to Save Glasgow Green is opposed to worthwhile development of the area known as Flesher's Haugh, if this truly is the desire of the people of the city. Those who attended the public meetings, and many many others throughout the city, have a variety of plans and proposals on how best to revamp the area. But the people must be consulted in an open and honest manner.

The men and women who sit in Council are our elected representatives. They are custodians of Glasgow on behalf of its people. They do not own Glasgow. They do not have the right to sell off its assets to private developers. And no amount of haranging by the Leadership will convince the people that a lease of 125 years - taking our descendants some time into the 22nd century - is somehow distinct from a sell-off.

Of the three private developers proposing plans for the 30 acre site it now appears that one of them, Rank Organisation, is favourite to finance each of the other two. No wonder the firm didn't bother sending a representative to any of the four public meetings.

But no matter what Mr Lally and his supporters may have us believe, the Rank Organisation and its competitors are not philanthropic bodies; nor are they charitable institutions. They are business corporations whose first and foremost concern is the financial welfare of its shareholders, the vast majority

of whom will have no connection with this country, let alone the city. And in light of the recent news from Dundee, and their new "road to nowhere", <sup>at a cost to the public of £3.5 millions,</sup> surely our elected members are out consulting their colleagues on the East coast? For better or worse Rank Organisation is in it for the money. We don't condemn them for that. It is their business to operate efficiently in the pursuit of cash profit.

But under Mr Lally's description of 'sports and leisure' they can bankroll as many night clubs, restaurants, discos, cinemas, 10 pin bowling alleys, shops, amusement arcades and car parks as they like. One thing is certain, you pay your money and you get inside. The vast majority of low paid and unemployed workers, and children, and senior citizens, will be left with the dubious pleasure of watching folk with money spending money.

The Glasgow Green belongs to all the people of this city. Councillor Lally accuses our Campaign of distorting the facts. But we are simply presenting the facts, as we find them - and we have to find them, because of the secrecy surrounding them. As Alasdair Gray wrote in <sup>his</sup> great novel Lanark: Let Glasgow Flourish - By Telling The Truth.



## Save the Glasgow Green, The Fight is On.

At the best attended meeting ever held on the future of the Glasgow Green over 200 people from all over Glasgow and many districts in the West of Scotland expressed their disgust not just at the Glasgow's District Council decision to allow private development on the Green, but the complete lack of consultation in a serious manner. The meeting was opened by Bill

Kidd on behalf of the Workers City Group who made the point that it was the intention of the above group to extend the campaign to include every one from every organisation and any political point of view who see the Glasgow Green as a symbol of the past struggles and not a piece of prime real estate.

The other two speakers briefly exposed the dishonesty not only of the Glasgow District Council but the Northclyde regions continual attempts to extend their road schemes still further into the Glasgow Green. Hugh Shaw made the point that the lease of Flesher's Rough, which was nearly a third of the road, for a period of one hundred and twenty five years when the life of the so called leisure complex would not extend beyond twenty years, showed the real intentions of the developers was to extend the ownership of extensive private housing with a riverside location was the real aim of the game.

Alison Smith of the Glasgow for People exposed the roadplans of the Strathclyde Regional Council and asked if successful would not only isolate the Glasgow Green and the Peoples Palace but would also cut off the Corbula and the Galton and create a ghetto within less than a mile of the city centre. As for the argument of the green had the only suitable riverfront available it was exposed as tissue of lies. From the other side of the Main Street bridge there are nearly ten miles of land right along the banks of the Clyde lying derelict. It goes as far as the old Clydeside Iron works and beyond on each side of the river and even includes the old Leithorn cycling and athletic track which now lies in an abandoned state due to the failure of the council to maintain it.

The main theme of the discussion that came from over twenty participants at the meeting was the secrecy with which the District Council conducted their meetings over a period of three years with the developers without involving the people of Glasgow. It was unanimously agreed that the fight had to continue based on the petition that was accepted by the meeting and over ninety people signed up to help in the campaign which will start on the 10th of August at 1.30 pm at a lobby of the district council.

It was emphasized at the meeting several times that the Workers City Group have no desire or intention of controlling any campaign that it is the job of the people involved, the group's work is to participate. We have no desire to seek office or positions the fight can only be won by the ordinary workers uniting to challenge the District Council who no longer even pretend to represent them.

HUNT SAVAGE  
to  
Bernard CANNON

We want to report

We are writing to you regarding  
the second incident carried out by 4 of  
your staff against people active in  
the campaign to save the green  
They are employed in the Water by order  
by the Parks Dept.

One evening last week the four parks  
employees when we know stopped one  
of our associates a retired trade unionist  
for him against the wall and said  
they would "get two of those Worker  
city Bastards."

This is completely unacceptable ~~in~~  
behaviour in a civilized society  
and will not be tolerated by the ordinary  
workers involved in the fight to save  
the green from privatisation. Our campaign  
is completely peaceful we have made no  
threats to anyone and we will not be  
intimidated by thugs no matter where  
they are employed. If the above people  
are not dealt with by you we will take  
the matter to the highest authorities, and  
they will find out the people of Glasgow do  
not suffer the type of intimidation



# Parks *and* Recreation

City of Glasgow

Mr Hugh Savage  
Campaign to Save  
Glasgow Green  
204 Hamilton Road  
GLASGOW  
G32

Fax No: 041-227 5551

Tel: 041-227-5055

Our Ref: DJF/AC/5/3/6/4

Your Ref:

Date: 14 January 1991

Dear Sir

## ALLEGED INCIDENT GLASGOW GREEN

Referring to your letter of 4 December, 1990, I have to inform you that I have reviewed the conduct of my staff who have been involved in several incidents with individuals attempting to distribute leaflets within Glasgow Green and I am satisfied that my staff have carried out their duties in accordance with the existing Bye-laws.

Referring now to the alleged incidents in your letter of 4 December regarding a member of your group being accosted in the City centre and allegations of burglaries I have to inform you I have no jurisdiction over these matters and you should discuss them with the Police.

Yours faithfully

Bernard M Connolly  
Director of Parks and Recreation